AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A pipe joint, comprising:

a body part provided by rolling a planar material to form a cylindrical structure, the body part having a pair of opposing circumferential edges and a pair of opposing axial edges, the axial edges of the body part defining a longitudinal slot, the body part defining a central longitudinal axis extending between the pair of opposing circumferential edges, the body part further defining an axis transverse to the central longitudinal axis that extends ~~a transverse axis extending~~ between the pair of opposing axial edges of the body part;

a coupling part having a bent surface at each of both ends of the body part, with a plurality of locking holes provided on the bent surface of the coupling part;

locking means tightened into the locking holes to couple the both ends of the body part to each other;

and a reinforcing unit comprising a separate curved plate, ~~the reinforcing unit being reduced in thickness at both ends thereof to be in close contact with an inner surface of the body part,~~ the reinforcing unit having a pair of opposing circumferential edges and a pair of opposing axial edges, the reinforcing unit defining a longitudinal axis extending between the pair of opposing circumferential edges, the reinforcing unit further defining an axis transverse to the longitudinal axis that extends ~~a transverse axis extending~~ between the pair of opposing axial edges of the reinforcing unit ~~body part~~, the reinforcing unit being gradually reduced in thickness along its entire transverse axis from its center to both axial edges to be in close contact with an inner surface of the body part;

wherein at least one edge of the pair of opposing circumferential edges of the body part and at least one edge of the pair of opposing circumferential edges

of the reinforcing unit are substantially coplanar with respect to one another ~~the transverse axes of the body part and reinforcing unit.~~

2. (Previously amended) The pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing unit further comprises:

a stop means having a stepped shape, the stop means extending along at least a portion of one edge of the pair of opposing circumferential edges of the reinforcing unit.

3. (Currently amended) The pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein the body part is stepped around a predetermined portion thereof so that upper and lower parts of the body part, relative to the central longitudinal axis thereof, differ in inner and outer diameters from each other, the upper part defined by an area between one of the circumferential edges of the body part and the stepped portion, and the lower part defined by an area between the other circumferential edge of the body part and the stepped portion, each of the upper and lower parts having a constant ~~consistent~~ diameter and defining substantially concentric, graduated parts such that the constant ~~consistent~~ diameter of one part is greater than the constant ~~consistent~~ diameter of the other part.

4. (Currently amended) The pipe joint according to any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising:

a sealing unit provided against the interior surface of ~~inside~~ each of the body part and the reinforcing unit to provide a sealing effect after joining pipes.

5. (Previously amended) The pipe joint according to claim 4, wherein the sealing unit comprises:

a close contact means to increase a contact force at a contact surface thereof, the close contact means spaced apart and extending longitudinally along at least a portion of the surface of the sealing unit in contact with the inner surface of the body part.

6. (Original) The pipe joint according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein each of the coupling parts comprises a bending part to be attached to the body part.

7. (Currently amended) The pipe joint according to claim 1 wherein the reinforcing unit further comprises:

positioning means extending in a longitudinal direction ~~longitudinally~~ along at least a portion of an outer surface of the reinforcing unit and having a stepped shape, the positioning means facilitating the horizontal positioning of the reinforcing unit against the body part relative to the central longitudinal axis of ~~with respect to~~ the body part when the stepped shape of the positioning means correspondingly engages ~~aligns with~~ and extends into at least a portion of the longitudinal slot of the body part.